study bio-technology which is pertinent to the industry also. Emphasis, however, is going to be on health and agriculture and there would be some study in the field of industry also.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: I would like to know whether there has been any effort to coordination in the field of biotechnology with regard to its future development in space. I would like to know whether some planning is being made and coordination being done for biotechnology engineering.

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: Madam, biotechnology is relevant for the space also, because when the human beings go into the space, what effect the conditions available in the space have on the human body is also studied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Seminar organised by the Forum of Free Enterprise

*344. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent Seminar organised by the Forum of Free Enterprise and the Indian Merchants' Chamber in Bombay on June 21, 1987 which suggested the abolishing of income-tax;

(b) whether the suggestions made by the Committee on demonetisation, the voluntary disclosure scheme and the seizures and raids would result in the eradication of black money; and

(c) if not, whether the proposal to abolish income tax is considered viable to eradicate black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir. From press reports, the Government have come to know of the Seminar.

(b) It is not understood as to which "Committee" the Hon'ble Members are referring to. From the press reports of the Senimar oganised by the Forum of Free Enterprise and the Indian Merchant's Chamber, it appears that a point made was that the impact of measures like demonetisation, voluntary disclosure schemes, seizures and raids was marginal.

(c) Abolition of income-tax is not considered a viable proposition to eradicate black money.

Ad Hoc Appointments

*345. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court in a recent judgement has decided that the period of ad-hoc appointments in Government, which are followed by regular appointments without break, has to be counted towards seniority and other benefits; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to implement the same as a matter of policy in all the offices including the attached and subordinate offices; and

(c) if so, what are the details of instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.

CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Narender Chadha *Vs.* Union of India dated 11th February 1986 has come to the notice of the Government. The Court has held that in the cases of officers appointed to Grade IV of the Indian Economic Service/Indian Statistical Service during the period upto the date of judgement, the entire period of *ad hoc* officiation followed by regular appointment should be counted for the purpose of seniority.

(b) and (c) The judgement was given in respect of persons belonging to the Indian Economic Service and the Indian Statistical Service on the facts and in the circumstances of the case before the Court. The Court has also directed that all appointments shall be made hereafter in accordance with the rules and seniority determined under Rule 9-C of the Rules. Hence the question of issuing any direction does not arise.

Annomalies in the Pay Scales in the Army Ordnance Corps

*346. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from some Members of Parliament regarding the anomalies in the pay scales of the workers of the Army Ordnance Corps;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Government have received some representations from a Member of Parliament regarding demands of the Staff of Army Ordnance Corps, including the one relating to sorting out of certain disparities/anomalies in the pay scales of Storekeepers. These are as follows:—

(i) The Expert Classification Committee (ECC) appointed by the Ministry of Defence had recommended a pay scale of Rs. 260-430 (instead of Rs. 260—400 as recommended by the Third Pay Commission) to the Ordnance Storekeepers but the same was not implemented. As per recommendations of the ECC, the Fourth Pay Commission pay scale of Rs. 975-1540 (which is the replacement scale for Rs. 260-430) should be sanctioned.

(ii) The Third Pay Commission had recommended a pay scale of Rs. 380-560 to twenty categories of employees, except Storekeeping Staff of the Army Ordnance Corps, who were given a pay scale of Rs. 350-560. This anomaly should be rectified and these storekeepers should be given the Fourth Pay Commission pay ascale of Rs. 1320—2040 (which replaces the scale of 380-560).

The recommendations of the ECC in respect of non-industrial workers were considered but not accepted by the Government, as the Third Pay Commission had recommended job evaluation only for industrial workers.

The question of sorting out anomalies can be considered after a decision regarding the setting up of an Anomalies Committee is arrived at and if it falls within the definition of an 'anomaly'.

Evasion of Excise Duty by Firms

*347. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have filed Civil and Criminal Cases against several firms for the evasion of excise duty since 1986 (January);

(b) if so, what is the number of such companies;